

FACT SHEET



How Do I Clean up Lead-Contaminated Waste?

Proper Methods for Cleaning up During and After Housing Projects That May Involve Lead-based Paint

If your home was built before 1978 and you are planning on doing any projects such as renovation or remodeling, be aware that lead-based paint may be present in your home. In order to keep lead hazards to a minimum while working on lead abatement, renovation, and remodeling projects, pay special attention to cleanup activities that will help you prevent contaminating other areas or exposing people to lead. Use the following guidelines when determining what is necessary to protect yourself, your family, and any workers.

Type of Cleanup	GUIDELINES
Personal Cleanup	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not take off your respirator until after you have removed your outer protective clothing.• Vacuum dust from clothing using a HEPA filter-equipped vacuum.• Wash your hands and face whenever you leave the work site.• Change your clothes and shoes before leaving the work site.• After removing your clothes, wash them separately from other family laundry.• Shower and wash your hair right after finishing work.
Daily Site Cleanup	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dispose of construction trash in a heavy-duty plastic bag.• If possible, remove the trash through a window to avoid carrying it through the house.• Strain out paint chips from liquid waste and dispose of them in a heavy-duty plastic bag.• Mop the floors with a powdered, high phosphate automatic dishwasher detergent in areas where there is little dust, or vacuum with a HEPA filter-equipped vacuum cleaner.• Use a disposable mop.• Change mop water frequently and rinse with clean water.• Vacuum the plastic sheeting covering wall-to-wall carpet with a HEPA filter-equipped vacuum cleaner.• Wet-sweep outside areas with lots of dust and trash by using a garden hose to spray these areas with water. Avoid dry sweeping.• Shovel the trash into heavy-duty plastic bags.• Clean your tools with a powdered, high phosphate automatic dishwasher detergent.• Seal off the entryways with 6 mil polyethylene plastic if you have to leave the work site unattended.
Final Cleanup	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start your cleanup work from the dirtiest part of the work area and work toward the clean area of the house.• Work from the top of the room toward the bottom, cleaning ceilings first, then walls, counters, and floors.• Carefully remove plastic sheeting used to protect surface by rolling or folding inward.• Wash floors and walls with a powdered, high phosphate automatic dishwasher detergent.• Vacuum floors, walls, and wall-to-wall carpeting with a HEPA filter-equipped vacuum cleaner.• Vacuum baseboards, chair rails, window sills, casings, shelves and counter-tops again, once they are dry.

****If you decide to hire a contractor (i.e. remodelers, home repair services), you can protect yourself, your family, and your property by ensuring that he/she follows the OSHA rule 29 CFR 1926.62, "Interim Final Rules for Lead in Construction Standard".****

To obtain the EPA booklet "Reducing Lead Hazards When Remodeling Your Home", for additional information, please call the Lead Program of the Louisiana Department of Environmental/Registrations and Certifications at (225) 219-3023, or write to us at LDEQ Lead Program; P.O. Box 4313 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313.